Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the existing paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following replacement paragraph, marked to show changes:

In another aspect, the invention features a method for increasing levels of a virally-encoded therapeutic gene product in a hepatocyte cell population. The method includes contacting the hepatocyte cell population with a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding the therapeutic gene product and an agent that modulates Kupffer cell function in the subject. One of the Kupffer cell functions that is being modulated is the uptake of the agent. Uptake of the agent may ~~to~~ be nonspecific, such as through phagocytosis, or may be specific, such as through receptor mediated uptake.

At page 34, please replace the existing paragraph at lines 3-26 with the following replacement paragraph, marked to show changes:

Intravenous injections of 0.132 μmol/0.1 ml and 0.264 μmol/0.2m1 of liposome-entrapped doxorubicin (100 nm unilamellar liposomes composed of distearoyl-phosphatidylcholine/cholesterol 55/45 at a drug to lipid molar ratio of 0.2, a gift from Dr. Marcel B. Bally, BC, Cancer Agency) were administered 24 hour prior to the injection of a low dose of H5.110CMVhIFN-β for the temporary depletion of Kupffer cells. As shown in FIG. 5, hIFN-β expression in Balb/c nude mice was evaluated comparing injections of (a) 2 x 10^{10} particles of H5.110CMVhIFN-β alone, (b) 2 x 10^{10} particles H5.110CMVhIFN-β injected 24 h after depletion of Kupffer cells by injection of 0.132 ~~mmol~~ μmol liposome-entrapped doxorubicin, or (c) after depletion with 0.264 ~~mmol~~

μmol liposome-entrapped doxorubicin; or (d) four hours after predosing with 8×10^{10} H5.110CMVlacZ. Each strain of mice was injected with the adenoviral constructs as indicated, and sera were collected 24 hour later by terminal bleeding. Treatment of mice with doxorubicin/liposomes prior to administration of 2×10^{10} particles H5.110CMVhIFN-β led to dramatically higher IFN-β expression levels and was nearly equivalent to the effect of high dose H5.110CMVlacZ pre-treatment. The results are shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.